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City of Riverside

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY NAMES NEW HUMAN RELATIONS DIRECTOR

RIVERSIDE, CA--Riverside city employee Pedro Payne has been named Human Relations Director for the city. He will succeed Javier Rosales who is retiring in January. Mr. Payne is scheduled to assume the role of Human Relations Director on January 9, 2004.

"We are thrilled to have been able to attract such a talented and well qualified person to the post. Human and community relations is about building trust among the City's diverse population and making real progress toward equality. Pedro's work in the Arlanza community speaks volumes as to what he can achieve for the wider city community," stated City Manager George Carvalho. "

Pedro is currently concluding his work with the City of Riverside as an Administrative Services Manager on the Arlanza Neighborhood Initiative, a project that, among other achievements, boasts the development of the Arlanza Family and Neighborhood Resource Center soon to appear in Bryant Park. Pedro was successful in raising funds totaling over \$700,000 for the project.

He has a track record of community work, including facilitator/trainer for the Eastside Asset Mapping Project, organized 30 Arlanza clerics into the Arlanza Area Clergy Team, participated as a youth mentor for the Latino Mentorship Program, soup kitchen volunteer, cancer research volunteer, and assisted in the development of a national youth violence prevention model in Atlanta, Georgia, upon invitation of the U.S. Center for Disease Control.

As Human Relations Director, Pedro will staff the Human Relations Commission, which advises the Council on broad community matters, including racial relations, juvenile delinquency, neighborhood blight, unemployment, and other related social and economic issues.

Pedro has been with the City since June 2002. Prior to that time, Pedro worked for the University of California, Riverside's Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies and as a research assistant with the University's Department of Sociology. Pedro is bilingual in Spanish and holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Radiologic Science from Andrews University and a Masters degree in Sociology from the University of California, Riverside (UCR). He is currently completing his dissertation for his PhD in Sociology at UCR with an emphasis on Race and Class Inequality and Sociolegal Studies.

Pedro was born and raised in New York City and later moved with his family to Orlando, Florida in 1981. He came to the Riverside area in 1995 where he has remained since.